

## HISTORY OF LUKE'S HOT POTS

by John H. Luke

The first know settler of Luke's Hot Pots was an Indian, called Red Cap, who settled here in about 1850.

On June 15, 1851, there were 15 men passing through the country, and seeing the Pots stopped to swim.

A short time later they saw a band of Indians coming, and as they had \$8,000.00 in Mexican money there were very frightened so they put the money in an old iron kettle and buried it, not very far from where they were swimming, and then they fled.

Since I, John H. Luke, have been here at the Pots, an old gentleman came to try and find the money that he and his party had buried; but the country had changed so that he was unable to locate it. He ~~sax~~ said they had buried it among the sage brush not far from where they had been swimming. The place where they swam was called "The Old Long Pot." At present it is the inside swimming pool at Luke's Hot Pots Resort. The old gentleman said the Indians chased them to what is now known as Park City.

In the year 1863, there was a party of white men and some Indians who got into an argument. To settle this argument one of the white men by the name of Campbell, and one of the Indians got down into the dry Pot that stands at the North end of the rock house, and fought it out. The white man, Campbell whipped the Indian. After the fight they helped the fighters out of the dry Pot and then all sat down to smoke the pipe of peace. Then they all went their way.

Back in the early days before the Hot Pots were homesteaded, the boys used to come over from Heber and go in swimming in the Old Long Pot, as it was called then. One of their favorite pastimes was killing rattle snakes; as some of the dry pots were dens of them.

The first white men to file a homestead on the Hot Pots were Tom Mantle and Hyrum Shelton. This was in the year 1875, when there were two homesteads filed. The Shelton homestead was the south half, and the Mantle homestead was the North half. The dividing line ran through the Old Long Pot.

Shelton traded Tom Mantle and indian saddle horse for his half of the Hot Pots. Later on Shelton traded what is now known as Luke's Hot Pots to Ezra Strong for a second-hand sewing machine on October 1, 1885.

While Ezra Strong had the Hot Pots he put a tent over one of the dry Pots and a wide board floor in it and lived there. He used to have parties and dances in it. They went in and out on a ladder and while dancing they moved it on one side. Cooney Abegglen used to play the accordin for the dances, and they would have gay times in the old Pot.

Mr. Strong ~~xxx~~ had his stable for his horse in another dry Pot.

The following year, October 23, 1886 the Hot Pots were sold to Charles Tribble and William Rolfe for the sum of \$300.00

*Noted Charles Tribble was my mother's first husband. He died then*

Tribola and Rolfe built a log house after they bought the Hot Pots. They built a shed over the Old Long Pot. The one they used for a swimming pool.

On March 10, 1888, they were sold to Andrew Luke and John Busby for the sum of \$600.00, and on November 18, 1890, John Busby sold his half interest to Andrew Luke for the sum of \$1,200.00

Andrew Luke and John Busby named the resort Luke's Hot Pots after they bought it. Andrew Luke cut a doorway through solid rock into the Old Dry Pot, home of Ezra Strong, and built a store and pool hall in it. He sold candy, nuts, ice-cream, and soda water. He also built a large pot rock house.

In 1891 Andrew Luke built a dance hall and small store. The dance hall was for the "Duke Reunion". The Duke Reunion has been held here nearly every year since.

Mr. Andrew Luke lived here 35 years ~~xx~~ and raised 12 children. He built up the resort to quite a well-known and popular place.

On February 19, 1923, the Hot Pots was sold to John H. Luke, eldest son of Andrew Luke, for the sum of \$13,000.00. A home for Mother and Father was ~~xxxx~~ provided for as long as they live.

I, John H. Luke have made a great many improvements on the property by putting in modern swimming pools, cabins, a large dining room and by ~~xxxxxx~~ serving delicious steak and chicken dinners. I also enlarged the confectionary and built a large modern dance hall.

The Hot Pots are cone shaped springs of lime formation ~~xxxxxx~~ formed by water. The water which is 80% lime and the rest iron and magnesia forms a hard lime rock where ever it runs. Years ago at some time it ran over the top of the Hot Pots and built them up into different shaped cones. Some of these cones are very high while others are just level with the ~~xxx~~ ground. The side walls are a solid rock.

The temperature of the water varies from about 70 degrees to 112 degrees. Almost every spring has a different temperature.

The dry pots have sealed themselves up with lime rock.

Midway and Heber City have many buildings built of this Pot Rock or lime rock; as it can be easily sawed or chopped into building rock. Many of the buildings built from this rock are large and beautiful.

The lime water is very ~~xxxx~~ healthful and very good for all kinds of rheumatism.

On June 12, 1947, the Luke's Hot Pots ~~xxxxxx~~ was sold to Joe B. Erwin for the sum of \$100,000.00.

JOHN H. LUKE  
MIDWAY, UTAH

*Lime & copper also -  
(the lime is "calcium")*



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